

DOI/DHS Hurricane Katrina Talking Points

September 19, 2005

Department of the Interior

1. U.S. Department of the Interior Personnel currently deployed: 2,304
2. 1,000 DOI personnel are among 4,500 wildland firefighters operating base camps for relief workers, opening roads and removing debris, and facilitating mobile home delivery. Over 5,490 truckloads of water, ice and MRE's have been delivered with support of the wildland fire community.
3. US Fish & Wildlife Service base camp in Lacombe LA , September 4-17, has;
 - Served/delivered 15,217 meals
 - Provided 300-350 showers per day
 - Facilitated 100-150 loads of laundry per day
 - Cleared 13.5 miles of debris from roads
 - Cleared 237 driveways of debris
 - Cleared 4 parking lots
4. Minerals Management Service, operating from a temporary headquarters in Houston, is monitoring the safety of gas and oil production in the Gulf of Mexico. Shut in oil production is now 56% of daily production and shut-in gas production is 34% of daily production.
5. US Geological Survey is repairing and replacing stream gauges to restore flood warning capability, and providing satellite imagery and maps to emergency responders. USGS provided 22 boats to assist in rescue operations.
6. 152 DOI law enforcement personnel are enhancing security for relief teams and supporting state, local and tribal law enforcement officials.
7. Bureau of Reclamation is providing 2,900 gallons of safe drinking water per hour to the Biloxi Regional Medical Center. A saline-water treatment plant, which was shipped to Mississippi, pumps and treats water from the Gulf of Mexico. The hospital had been without water since the hurricane struck.
8. National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service are conducting recovery operations from Hurricanes Katrina and Ophelia damage at many sites.

Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security is guided by its Disaster Recovery Key Messages. They are updated as follows:

1. Reduce further fatalities and save lives; Federal, state and local responders continue life saving and life sustaining missions such as searches and rescues, water, food and medicine distribution and preventing exposure, crime and disease.
 - Rescues Performed: 49,800
 - Meals Provided: 22.5 million
 - Water Distributed: 53.3 million liters

2. Provide safe shelter and secure housing facilities; FEMA, the American Red Cross and several partners are providing victims with safe shelter and long-term housing plans are being implemented.
 - Evacuees in shelters: 141,500 in 26 states and the District of Columbia
3. FEMA Expedited Assistance Program; FEMA is issuing immediate monetary aid (\$2,000 per household) to those displaced.
 - Assistance Provided: \$818 million as checks, debit cards and direct deposits.
4. 31 Disaster Recovery Centers are open in six states and 61 National Disaster Medical System Teams are engaged in the Gulf Region.

Other Departments and Agencies

1. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality released water sampling data that concludes the public and emergency responders should avoid contact with standing water.
2. Katrina Recovery Job Connection, announced by U.S. Department of Labor, can be found at <http://www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs> or through America's Job Bank at <http://www.ajb.org>.
3. The US Postal Service continues to reconnect Gulf Coast residents with their mail. Out of 733 post offices affected by the storm 662 have full service and 53 have partial service.
4. US Customs and Border Protection and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement delivered several thousand items of clothing this week to evacuees in Mississippi. CPB and ICE will deliver up to one million pieces of clothing this week, valued at approximately \$15 million, to other areas sheltering evacuees. Officials seized the clothes for violations of US trademark laws.

Talking Points are distributed jointly by Office of Communications and OLES Emergency Management Division.